



August 23, 2004

William Taylor
US Department of Energy
PO Box 538705
Cincinnati, OH 45253-8705

Recommendation 2004-13: Continuation of Critical Analysis Team Involvement in the Silos Projects

Chair
James C. Bierer

Vice Chair
Lisa Crawford

Members
M. Kathryn Brown
Sandy Butterfield
Marvin W. Clawson
Lisa Crawford
Stephen P. Depoe
Louis Doll
Pamela Dunn
Gary Storer
Robert G. Tabor
Gene E. Willeke

Ex Officio Members
L. French Bell
Gene Jablonowski
William Taylor
Graham Mitchell

Support Staff
The Perspectives Group

Dear Mr. Taylor:

The Critical Analysis Team has provided high-quality observations and advice throughout the design and construction of Fernald Silos Projects' facilities. Their work is a model for how an independent review by experienced experts can make a significant positive contribution to complex environmental cleanups. The Department of Energy, its contractors, and regulators for the Fernald site have all gained tremendous insights from the Team's input as this complex project has moved forward. In addition, their detailed reports and presentations have helped Fernald Citizens Advisory Board members to understand these projects and develop trust in the safety and effectiveness of the current silos remedy.

We understand that, following readiness reviews for these projects, the original scope of work for the Critical Analysis Team will be complete. However, the FCAB believes that the Team's continued involvement in the Silos Projects would be extremely valuable. Any mechanical process of this nature and at this scale is sure to experience difficulties throughout its implementation. Recent political opposition to the disposal of Fernald silos wastes and its potential impacts on the Projects are stark examples of how project conditions can quickly change. Input from the Critical Analysis Team will help to minimize the impacts of these and future problems and ensure that solutions conform to a high degree of safety.

The FCAB asks that the Critical Analysis Team be accessible to the site staff and the community throughout the lifespan of the Silos Projects. For participation of the Critical Analysis Team to be valuable, the Silos Projects staff must continue to inform them of conditions at the projects and provide them with relevant reports and documentation.

We plan to discuss this issue our next FCAB meeting on August 3, 2004. We look forward to a formal written response regarding the ongoing role of the Critical Analysis Team in time for our annual retreat on September 18, 2004.

Sincerely,

Jim Bierer
Chair

Lisa Crawford
Co-Chair

cc:
Gary Stegner